

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (Without Sunday, One Year) \$3.00...

OFFICE: Omaha, The Bee Building, South Omaha, Singer Bldg., Cor. N and 26th Sts.

ADVERTISING: All business letters and notices should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: Table with columns for Date, Paid, and Unpaid circulation figures.

Not a day of the year is there a day when the sun does not shine in my presence this day of April.

Two balloons have been ordered for the British army, presumably to enable it to look down on its rivals.

The way to preserve the dignity and power of our laws is to see that the penalties for their violation are uniform and not evadable.

Senator Tillman is said to have had a great reception in Kansas. Tillman ought to move to the Sunflower state.

While Nebraska is being blessed with these encouraging rains, the abundant moisture irrigation enterprises will have to go slow, but they should not be abandoned.

The people of Nebraska may as well admit that they were lunched when the legislature voted an appropriation to lease the Milford sanitarium for a second soldiers' home.

All western roads have agreed to make special rates for passenger transportation to the great nominating conventions and the price of the passes will furthermore remain unaltered as always.

The populist convention to place a state ticket in nomination will not be held until August. The republican candidates will then be in the field and supply the necessary pointers for the populist slate makers.

Li Hung Chang may return to China from St. Petersburg by way of America. The representative of the Chinese emperor should not let the representative of the Japanese emperor get ahead of him in the United States.

The Pacific railroad funding bill has been reported from committee to the two houses of congress. From now on the railroad lobby in Washington will be thicker and more persistent than flies about a molasses jug in summer.

Ex-King Milan might not find everything to his satisfaction if he visits the United States. He must remember that the stock in trade of ex-public officials is both numerous and of unattractive quality.

Nebraska populists are to have a representation of fifty-seven delegates in their national convention. In the populist party councils Nebraska is a mighty important factor, not only in point of numbers in the faith, but also in the standing and ability of its recognized leaders.

"In this day and generation enlightened public opinion practically rules the world," exclaims a newspaper philosopher. Of course it does. The whole civilized world has for nearly a year been protesting against the barbarous treatment of the Armenians by the Turks and the end of Turkish atrocities in Armenia is no more assured than at first.

They are just discovering down in Lincoln that the law requires druggists who sell liquors for medicinal purposes to go through the same procedure to secure permits as men who dispense liquors for social purposes to secure licenses. No one living in Lincoln or in Omaha who is not half blind can help knowing that the saloon drug store exists and does a rushing business in alcoholic medicines.

Street railways in German cities are being successfully operated by storage batteries and underground electrical conduits. But in the United States the overhead trolley remains supreme simply because it is cheaper.

Now it is Chili and Argentina that are going to arbitrate a boundary dispute. The settlement of international controversies by arbitration thus continues to gain momentum by more widespread adoption.

THE HEBBURN AMENDMENT.

The Pacific railroad committee of the house has accepted an amendment proposed by Congressman Hebburn of Iowa to the Pacific railroad debt funding bill, which reads as follows:

And that said (Pacific railroad) companies heretofore mentioned, their successors, lessees and assigns, shall co-operate in making track connections with all railways of other companies now of hereafter built to points of junction with their roads and shall share equally with companies owning such roads in the cost thereof; and at points where two or more railroads shall connect with their roads, or either of them, they and their successors, lessees and assigns shall afford to all such connecting roads equal terms, rates and facilities for the interchange of traffic, both passenger and freight, between such connecting roads and their respective roads and every part thereof. And any contract, arrangement or device by sale, lease, consolidation, through car service or otherwise, intended for or resulting in any preference or advantage whatever to any such railroad, so connecting at any such common point, or which shall subject any such railroad so connecting at any common point, to any prejudice or disadvantage whatsoever, is hereby declared to be unlawful.

This amendment is sweeping and far-reaching. On the face it appears reasonable and equitable. On closer investigation, however, it will be found to be unreasonable and inequitable. It is right and proper that all railroads that connect with the Union Pacific shall enjoy equal facilities for the transfer of passenger and freight traffic. It is right and proper that the rates charged all connecting roads for like service shall be the same. It is quite another thing, however, to require the Union Pacific railroad to grant a mileage pro-rate to roads that intersect it at any point on its main line or any of its branches.

The Hebburn amendment is an attempt to apply to the Pacific railroads the mileage pro-rate law which was demanded for the Burlington and Kansas Pacific roads in 1874-5. The design of the original Pacific railroad charters was that all the roads making a junction with the main stem of the Union Pacific at or near the one hundredth meridian should enjoy equal traffic privileges. In defiance of charter provisions the Union Pacific exacted the same rates from Kearney and Cheyenne to the coast as from its eastern terminals at Omaha. In that now historic contention for pro-rata at Kearney, The Bee supported the Burlington road, and opposed the Union Pacific policy, believing it to be detrimental to the public interest and a perversion of charter rights. To this view it still adheres. The denial of traffic exchange privileges at Kearney forced the Burlington to extend its line to Denver when one road to that city could have cared for all the business.

But the Hebburn amendment does not merely contemplate mileage pro-rate privileges at junction at or near the one hundredth meridian, but proposes to extend them to every point where another railroad connects with or intersects the Union Pacific and Central Pacific roads. In other words, it is proposed that the Union Pacific shall charge through mileage rates from any point on its line to its eastern or western terminals for all passengers and freight received from another railroad. For example, if the through passenger rate from Omaha to Ogden is \$20, the Union Pacific, under the Hebburn amendment, could charge only \$2 for an Omaha passenger turned over to it by another road at a point 100 miles east of Ogden, although it would under ordinary usage be entitled to local rates at not less than 3 cents a mile. In this case the advantage would be with the competing line, which would take the cream of the business and leave the Union Pacific the skim milk.

Why should the Union or Central Pacific be required to do for parallel and competing lines what these competitors are under no obligation to do for it and would never do voluntarily? If mileage pro-rate privileges are to be given to all lines connecting with or intersecting these roads the Union Pacific should certainly have the right to pro-rata over their lines.

All privileges granted should be reciprocal. If the conditions are such that complete reciprocity is impossible and the benefits all on one side and the burden on the other, it becomes a serious question whether congress would be justified in exacting any condition that would impair the obligations which the refunding bill imposes upon the Pacific roads. If the roads are to pay principal and interest in installments on a capitalization of \$100,000 a mile, where are they to secure the revenue if their traffic is to be diverted? It might not be a hardship on the Central Pacific to be forced to pro-rata with connecting lines, because there are practically no such lines. The Hebburn amendment may, therefore, be perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Huntington, but it will, if enacted, seriously hamper the Union Pacific. It is a question whether the road would not have to be again in the hands of receivers in the next ten years. The people of Nebraska and the patrons of the Pacific roads generally do not favor any scheme that will perpetuate the Pacific railroad debt. They want a foreclosure that will reduce it to an actual value capitalization. But if they must have a funding bill, they prefer one that will leave the road in position to meet obligations.

A CONFLICT OF EXPERTS.

There is a difference of opinion between the engineer of the Nicaragua Canal company and the engineers who investigated the canal by authority of congress which will have an important influence upon the future of that project, as to which the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce is hearing expert opinion. There is agreement among the engineers regarding the feasibility of the enterprise, but there is a very wide difference of opinion as to what it will cost, the government commission estimating the cost at fully \$40,000,000 more than the company engineer. This is the really important point of disagreement, the conflict of

opinion as to some of the details being of no great consequence.

It is hardly necessary to say that so far as the public is concerned the inclination will be to accept the views of the commission sent to investigate the canal on behalf of the government, for not only was it composed of men selected for their superior ability, but they could have no reason or motive for making other than an impartial report in accordance with their best judgment. These competent engineers were unanimous in the opinion that the canal cannot be constructed, even in pursuance of the plans of the company, without a much greater expenditure than the amount estimated by the company, and they also agreed that material changes would have to be made in the company's plans in order to construct the canal as it should be. It is shown by the commission that the engineering problem is much more difficult than had been generally supposed and while it is not said that any of the difficulties are insurmountable, it would not be found an easy matter to overcome them. It would seem that the company has not been quite frank with the public in this respect, the impression conveyed being that the engineering work presented no serious difficulties.

It is apparent that the report of the government commission has affected public sentiment unfavorably to the proposal that the United States shall assume financial responsibility for the construction of the canal, while in addition to this the question whether the enterprise, if completed, would not be a losing investment, is being carefully considered, it being the judgment of some trustworthy statisticians that the canal company's estimates of the commerce that would pass through the waterway are wildly extravagant. It is possible that there is a majority in both houses of congress favorable to giving the financial support of the government to the Nicaragua canal, but it is safe to say that there will be no action on the subject at the present session.

ARBOR DAY.

Next Wednesday will be Arbor day in Nebraska and it is presumed that the usual attention will be given by the people to the performance of the pleasing and useful obligation which the day imposes. The custom, now very general, of annual tree planting as a public duty having originated in this state, there is a peculiar demand that all our people should interest themselves in its observance, as far as practicable, while there is abundant incentive to do this in the incalculable benefits that have come from the institution of the custom. It would be a great thing if there could be planted in Nebraska next Wednesday a tree for every inhabitant of the state, but if that is impossible every person who owns a piece of ground may plant a tree and none should neglect to do so. The growth of this custom has been remarkable, most of the states now having their Arbor day and some of them giving two days in the year to tree planting. It is needless to say that wherever the custom has been adopted it has enlisted the hearty interest of the people, for it appeals both to the sentimental and the practical.

It will be pertinent in this connection to refer to some facts as to the forestry resources of the country presented in a recent bulletin of the division of forestry in the Department of Agriculture. The forest area of the United States covers 500,000,000 acres, seven-tenths of which are on the Atlantic side of the continent, one-tenth on the Pacific coast, one-tenth on the Rocky mountains and the rest distributed throughout the western states. In the New England and the southern states 50 per cent of the area is still under cover. The prairie states, with an area of 400,000 square miles, have hardly 4 per cent of forest growth, and the arid or semi-arid region has practically no forest growth. It is estimated that there are 2,500,000,000,000 feet of timber standing throughout the country ready to be cut down, and that the total annual wood consumption of the United States is 25,000,000,000 cubic feet. New industries are constantly increasing the demand and these which depend on forest products, that is including every form of wood manufacture, stand second in value to agriculture and largely exceed the value of products of the mining industry. The importance of the preservation of the forest resources of the country thus becomes obvious.

BRITISH PROSPERITY.

The American people, with the fact before them that industrial and business depression still exists in the United States and that the revenues of the government continue to be less than the expenditures, should find food for reflection in the statement just made by the British chancellor of the exchequer, which shows that England is having an extraordinary measure of prosperity. It appears from this statement that the surplus in the British treasury is the largest that has ever been known, notwithstanding the fact that the expenditures of the last fiscal year were the greatest for many years. The credit of the nation is at its highest point, its trade has been materially increased during the year covered by the statement, there is in the Bank of England an enormous gold fund and a reserve in proportion to liabilities the highest on record. The fact that the condition of the working classes has improved is evidenced by the material increase in the consumption of articles of general use. The chancellor of the exchequer declared that "altogether the last year had been a wonderful one."

WHERE REFORM REIGNS.

The town of Gaylord, Kan., has recently elected a city government composed entirely of women. The mayor is a woman, the marshal is a woman and the council is composed of women. The platform on which the town put itself under a criminal government was not to accept any free clover, but a pledge to rid the city of dives and gamblers and thus give the husbands a chance to spend their evenings at home and their money at the drug store. The men, feeling their inability to cope with such matters, threw themselves on the laps of their wives and sisters and those noble women have taken up the problem of protecting the helpless, innocent men from the horrid tugs and gamblers. It is predicted that within a few months the women of Gaylord will have so reformed the town that it will be perfectly safe for a man to be on the streets after sundown without an escort.

IOWA'S GODDESSES.

Iowa, having launched her cruiser and disposed of the water versus wine debate that preceded the event, has now turned its attention to the all-absorbing question of how much clothing shall hang about the classic form of the sculptured goddesses that is to represent the state. Something more than three years ago this statue was decided upon, but unfortunately the artist who made the sketch belonged to the school of art which believes in beauty undisturbed and failed to supply his figure with a very sensitive transparency of the good people of the state were of the opinion that, seeing how goddesses have never been very great primers, their goddess would be also to get along with meager wardrobe supplied by the artist. After a year's cool deliberation, however, this decision was called in. About that time the bell skirt was beginning to come in and sleeves were daily expanding; so it was not natural that the prevailing sentiment of the times should decree more clothes for the goddess. For two years the matter was mumbled, while the Bibles boomed and the christening of the Iowa occupied the center of the stage. But now that both are faint memories and the golden age has been proclaimed, yesterday the monument committee decreed that the goddess would have to get along with what few duds she inherited from the artist.

The debate was long and bitter. A judge and a senator pleaded almost tearfully for a few more clothes; even a last year's skirt would have been accepted as a compromise. But the opposition, led by the "lady member" of the commission, was not to be moved, and wouldn't concede even a compromise. It may be, however, that the parent depravity on the part of the "no more clothes" faction can be accounted for by the fact that during the day the monument in Des Moines, where the goddess was being fitted, nestled among the 70s, and it can be safely predicted that with the advent of the first blizzard the Iowa goddess will not only have a blouse and a bonnet, but a feather box and a pair of earmuffs.

chief executive, Washington merely declined to permit his name to be used by his friends as a candidate for the presidency. Had he stood for another re-election it is quite probable that he would have been successful in the contest, but he would not have been without serious opposition. Declining to be a candidate and rejecting the presidency are not necessarily the same thing.

Seed Time and Harvest.

Philadelphia Times. While this state was setting out all kinds of trees the other day, a lot of Americans were gathering laurels in Greece.

Have Mercy on Pedestrians.

Chicago Chronicle. All that is necessary to cause universal good feeling over the prosperity of the bicycle industry is that the people on wheels shall respect the street rights of people on foot.

Keep Still on the Buck Seats.

Kansas City Star. If Mr. Horace C. Holmes could get assurance that Iowa, under any possible circumstances, would vote for the democratic candidate for president his demands in regard to the platform would be entirely reasonable. He could not carry Iowa himself, if a candidate on a silver platform, nor on any other platform, not into 70,000 majority or more. A little more quiet on the buck seats is the supreme demand at this crisis.

Women in the Methodist Conference.

Enough returns are now in to indicate that the question of admitting women as delegates to the next general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church has been settled. The decision is in line with justice and good policy. If the women of the Methodist church should decide to walk out and organize a boycott of the day of the industrial denomination would be speedily numbered.

The Spanish Armada.

Yonkers Sun. We doubt whether there would be an invincible armada in Cuban-American waters, even if the Spanish naval ships now there were reinforced from the squadron under Cortis, but the northwestern coast of Spain, Spain has some good war ships, which are well armed and well manned, but we cannot tell what might happen to them in a battle at sea. Spain lost her fame as a sea power when the first armada was destroyed.

Means Death to Democracy.

Philadelphia Inquirer. The moment that the democratic party declares for free silver, it is already setting its own future for it. It will become only a hideous memory of the past. In such a fight the republican party will sweep the country with such a purity of electoral college as will settle for years to come any doubt in the minds of the foreign investors and domestic capitalists. Then we shall move on in an era of prosperity such as the country has never seen.

Spotting Railroad Rebates.

Minneapolis Times. The Interstate Commerce commission, energized by the supreme court decision in the Brown case, is going for the roads running out of Chicago to spot rebates and cut rates. This is the first decision which gives the commission any effective tracer to the misdoings of the roads. Nobody can refuse to testify, for the law exempts him from prosecution if he incriminates himself when giving essential evidence. It will be interesting to see if the roads can evade the commission in its new role.

Passing of the Umbrella Hat.

Chicago Tribune. It is gratifying to learn from theatrical managers in Chicago that the fashion law against the high hat causes no trouble. It enforces itself. Women who wear towering headresses to the theater take them off when they enter the lobby, and when they leave their high hats at home. It seems to have been a mistake to assume that the Ohio woman was a reckless, law-defying creature who would take pleasure in being in the face of public sentiment and the concrete legislative wisdom of the Ohio man.

Cuban Success Inevitable.

New York Times. General Gomez sums up in a single phrase the situation of affairs in Cuba by saying of the patriot army that "we fight when we meet an enemy, but we never get out and without faith." In other words, the rebels now, as from the war's beginning, can avoid encounters in which victory would be theirs. They are concentrating their energies at points where success is probable or sure. As to the weariness of the Spaniards there can be no question. They are almost equally sure that they will not be able to put down the rebellion in its widespread, if not universal among them. Of course, the struggle without respite, for a length almost infinite, but what reason is there for doing so, it is impossible to see, unless the object is to save Spanish pride from a cruel humiliation as long as possible.

Where Reform Reigns.

Chicago News. The town of Gaylord, Kan., has recently elected a city government composed entirely of women. The mayor is a woman, the marshal is a woman and the council is composed of women. The platform on which the town put itself under a criminal government was not to accept any free clover, but a pledge to rid the city of dives and gamblers and thus give the husbands a chance to spend their evenings at home and their money at the drug store. The men, feeling their inability to cope with such matters, threw themselves on the laps of their wives and sisters and those noble women have taken up the problem of protecting the helpless, innocent men from the horrid tugs and gamblers. It is predicted that within a few months the women of Gaylord will have so reformed the town that it will be perfectly safe for a man to be on the streets after sundown without an escort.

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Rebates to Protect Her Against the Rigors of a Fickle Climate.

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In connection with the third term talk it is a common thing to speak of the honor which Washington rejected and which was refused to Grant. But it is by no means certain that President Washington rejected a third term as

BLASTS FROM RAY'S HOIN.

No man stands alone when he is right. A temptation resisted, is a foe overcome. A harsh word to a child may destroy an angel.

Nothing speaks with a louder voice than a bodily life. If you would be a happy man, learn to be a contented one. If you are praying for a revival, don't let somebody else do all the work.

The world would be a better place, but that made by an unkind word will not. It would spurn nine men out of ten to let them have their own way for a month. If big sermons could save the world, the devil would have been used up long ago.

There are so many people who are only pleasant while they can have their own way. If some men's prayers were always answered the heavens would always be raining fire. The world still needs men who have the courage to do right when they have to suffer for it.

PRINCE OF FABRICATORS.

Minneapolis Times: Murderer Holmes is a servile imitator—a base plagiarist—and it would be easy to prove it if Harry Hayward were alive. Indianapolis Journal: Holmes seems to be an obliging man, and will doubtless go on remembering other murders and writing supplementary chapters to his sensational newspaper will pay him for his work.

Chicago Tribune: Interviews with many of the people whom Holmes confesses he killed show that he is annoyed by the publication.

There is no cause for this. Allowance must be made for the limitations of human nature. A professional swindler will always find dupes, and Holmes could not resist a final exhibition of his art. Springfield Republican: The "confession" of the murderer, Holmes, which was syndicated among the Sunday papers as a star feature, and which is said to have profited Holmes \$5,000, was doubtless quite as much a monument to that creature's mendacity as to his appetite for blood. But the great editors did not care how many lies it contained. It was a good story.

Brooklyn Eagle: The matter of small consequence what Holmes "confesses" at this stage of proceedings.

He is known to have murdered a number of persons and to be an unconscionable rascal in a variety of minor ways. That he is a liar is a matter of course, and equally of course he is not likely to say anything worthy of credence. In conceding his tale he has evidently proceeded on the theory that inasmuch as he can be hanged but once he might as well tell a big story while he is about it.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Things have reached a sad and solemn stage when politicians seek inspiration at a tomb.

Owing to absorbing political engagements nature was permitted, unrebuked, to pull an emerald mantle over the fields.

In view of the fact that congress seems a hopeless business, worthy of a variety of congressional act against the traditional composition of the moon is in order.

Now that Hon. J. Sterling Morton has confessed the reason for his resignation, I hope Senator Vest will put up the sterling form of Liberty and politics her wounds.

Chicago people are looking up—not because "greater New York" has hazled. A palmer about to make a skyscraper indicates the multitude to forget the spot and look skyward.

If the metallic factions of democracy would observe Arbor day by starting a nursery of olive branches, the spirit would tickle the gods and send the torchbearers rejoicing on their way.

Bill Breckinridge, the salacious ex-statemanager of Kentucky, is anxious for a vindication. The side of the fellow is a matter of public contempt as his property is ex-ecution proof.

A colored burglar drew a razor on the woman occupying the room next to him in a Jersey town. The fellow is now in a local hospital, nursing a furrow in his forehead made by a revolver bullet.

A federal court in Kansas holds that while the bible is a good book there are chapters of it that offend good taste and morals when sent through the mails on a postal card. The sender of the postal card was fined \$50.

One of the new hotels in New York City laid in a Sunday supply, consisting of ten kegs of beer and two score of sandwiches. The sandwiches proved strong enough to survive the Sabbath day, but the kegs were completely exhausted.

Mavroyen Dey, Turkish minister at Washington, is much pleased because he has not been recalled. He is very popular in Washington society, his name is on the program of the "Dear." He is very fond of riding a bicycle, and has been haunted by the fear that he could not put his wheel in his native land.

The greatest American musical genius, Stephen C. Foster, is to have a monument at Pittsburgh, his native city. Subscriptions now exceed \$5,000, and will be augmented at the national sengerfest to be held in Pittsburgh in June, at which a chorus, accompanied by orchestra, will sing "The Old Folks at Home."

If the Hon. Nick Fritz of Thurston county succeeds in going to Chicago as a delegate Nebraska will have added a favored name to the New York Sun's roll of eminent citizens. Thurston's husband and son would shine like an arc light among such in-censees as Abe Slinsky, Hoke Smith, Hinky Dink, Peke Dismuke, Tom Tongue and Jack Mink.

Having discovered that the author of Ohio's anti-theater high hat law parts his hair in the center, members of a woman's club have petitioned the legislature to pass a law prohibiting men from infringing on the hirsute rights of women. Petitions are a waste of ink and paper. Action alone counts. Let the women mass his hair for a club.

Despite all reports to the contrary, there are some distasteful dregs in Ohio's over-flowing measure. In Cincinnati the discovery has been made that the mass of beer stamps collected and infests the amber fluid with germs of poison. Prompt action by the health authorities promises to sidetrack a threatened calamity without diminishing the inward flow of the state's beer, even if the barrel heads are cracked.

SECLAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Sioux City Journal: President Cleveland's brother has been dismissed from his charge as preacher.

Buffalo Express: It was a Christian and a graceful act for the Protestant ministers engaged in the great revival meeting to pass appreciative resolutions on the life-work of the late Catholic bishop of this diocese.

Minneapolis Times: The rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City who was caught in the act of using some other preacher's sermon for a sermon as he could preach, anyhow.

Minneapolis Journal: The devil paused a moment at the gates, wetting his finger to test the hinges to see if they were still shutting hot; then with a look of perplexity he recalled his car with the tip of his tail as if uncertain what to do, as the sound of hymn and prayer arose, followed a moment later by the voice of Colonel Ingersoll exhorting Chicago sinners to occupy the mourners' benches.

Brooklyn Eagle: The fact that the minister whose sermon Dr. Morgan preached in a Trinitarian when Dr. Morgan himself is an Episcopalian, has called out as much comment as the borrowing of the sermon itself. It should remind us that the chief differences between the various denominations are found in the practical Christianity rather than in the doctrinal.

Kansas City Star: There is the preacher whose congregation is invariably disappointing to him. He imagines the whole world ought to have his ear to the ground listening for the name of the preacher that are constantly dropping from the tip of his silver tongue. But the perverse public doesn't agree with him, and for obvious reasons.

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